

In this Issue

A Letter from the President - 1

Winter Meet & Greet - 2

Joan Lucas Memorial Scholarship - 2

2007 Fall Conference Thank-You's - 2

A New Vision - 3

Why Do You Teach ESL? - 3

Call for Articles - 3

Scholarly Publications by our Plenary Speaker - 4/5

Upcoming Events - 6

A Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Three Rivers TESOL Members:

As 2007 comes to an end and we recognize twenty-five years of Three Rivers TESOL - we have much to appreciate. Most importantly, ***we appreciate your support of Three Rivers TESOL.***

At the Fall 2007 3R TESOL Conference at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, we had the most submissions of any conference to date, along with a dramatic increase in membership. The one-day conference had many graduate student and collaborative teacher presentations. In the many years of conference planning, it has always been suggested that one of our responsibilities as a local TESOL chapter is to provide a platform that allows first-time conference attendees to present. In subsequent years we will continue to do this, as well as to enrich our conference by coordinating other TESOL tracks, such as researcher, K-12, and community-based. We welcome your input.

We continue our efforts to improve membership benefits, but like any professional organization it involves the input of all members. In order to acquaint ourselves in a more comfortable environment we invite all TESOL professionals to our winter Networking Social in January (please see details on p.2). At this event you will have the opportunity to network with other TESOL professionals, researchers, and students in Western Pennsylvania.

Please save the date for our Spring Professional Development Symposium on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 AM to 12 PM. At this event we will explore a TESOL theme in more depth (TBA) and elect new board members. The location will be announced closer to the date. And finally, we encourage you to submit information to our newsletter editor at editor@3rtesol.org, such as research projects, special events, and other newsworthy items.

Best Regards,
Shannon Mischler

Winter Meet & Greet

This past summer's Three Rivers TESOL Meet & Greet was such a success, that we're doing it again! Please join us for an evening of professional networking.

When: Tuesday, January 22, 2008
5:00-7:00pm

What: Appetizers & Cash Bar
Bring a TESOL Friend!

Where: La CASA-Tapas and Wine Bar
5884 Ellsworth Ave, Shadyside
(412) 441-3090

<http://www.casablanca212.com/>

RSVP: To president@3rtesol.org

Joan Lucas Memorial Scholarship

The Joan Lucas Memorial Scholarship will be postponed until late 2008. Anyone interested in giving to the scholarship fund, or interested in applying for the scholarship, should send an inquiry to the 3RT Board.



THANK YOU! *Fall Conference 2007*

On September 29, 2007 the Three Rivers TESOL Conference was held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. It was the first time I was ever a site coordinator for a conference, and I want to let everyone, the volunteers, our Plenary Speaker, Dr. Jerry Gebhard, our board and the IUP Graduate English Department's Composition and TESOL (C&T) Director Dr. Ben Rafoth know how much I appreciated their support. Planning, presenting, and attending a conference requires a lot of cooperation and support from so many individuals and I was impressed with how well everything went.

Being able to have the C & T Program put us under their university umbrella allowed us access to the nice rooms, technology, and wonderful breakfast which the program sponsored. It also allowed us to get good rates for the Holiday Inn for those who needed a place to stay for the conference. When I contacted IUP graduate student Marlen Harrison and asked him to set up a technology crew, he took the proverbial ball and ran with it. University professors Dr. Lilia Savova, and Dr. Dan Tannacito urged graduate students to participate in the conference as volunteers and presenters.

The Three Rivers TESOL Board organized the registration table and presenter materials, so that anyone wanting to look at ESL/EFL materials had easy access to the materials to examine. The publishing company representatives were informative and instructional to everyone.

Since one of the goals of Three Rivers TESOL is to provide support to ESL/EFL professionals from K-12 to post secondary and adult services, I think our conference is well situated to offer services of benefit to the TESOL profession. Our presenters tried to offer a varied venue of information that would appeal to all attendees. The conference also offered first time presenters and attendees a chance to see what goes on at conferences. I know Three Rivers TESOL was one of the first conferences I ever attended and presented at, giving me the opportunity to grow professionally as well.

In the coming months we will begin the planning process once again. I am sure that the next conference will be even more successful as we build upon relationships and experience. Thanks again everyone for helping to make the 2007 Three Rivers TESOL Conference a success. It is my hope we will take our successes and our experiences and build upon them as we grow in our TESOL profession.

- Janet L. Pierce

A New Vision

It has been a couple of months since we met at our Fall 2007 conference, and we on the 3RT Board hope that all of you were able to take something valuable away with you. The Board recently met to discuss the changing face of 3RT and where we see the organization going in the future. Traditionally, 3RT has consisted of adult educators and future teachers. However, over the past few years, we have had a growing immigrant community in the Pittsburgh area, and so more and more elementary and secondary educators are turning to our organization as a place to learn, share, and network.

As we plan the year ahead, it is our goal to meet the needs of as many members as possible. Because you are a member, you will have to opportunity to participate in training opportunities for those of you who are new to the presenting and networking scenes, learning opportunities where you can become informed about recent research and theory in ESL, and sharing opportunities that will give all of us the chance to teach what we use in our own classrooms & learn what other members have found to work for them. Without a doubt, 2008 will be our greatest year ever. We hope to see all of you at our events, and don't forget to bring a friend!

- Peter Kolenich



Why Do You Teach ESL?

Too few and far between are the times when we get to sit down together as ESL professionals and talk about the good and the bad of the profession. Most of us have neither the time nor the opportunity to do so. I recently attended one of the Southwest Professional Development Center's (SWPDC) professional development seminars titled "Learners' Lives as Curriculum." One of the small-group activities that we did was to individually complete the following statements with our own thoughts: "What I love about teaching ESL is _____," and "What concerns me about teaching ESL is _____" I worked with three other ESL adult educators to blend our individual beliefs into one strong mission statement:

"There are many things that we love about teaching ESL. First and foremost, the students themselves. There is a lot to be learned through our interacting with the students. We love learning about their cultures and their lives. And of course, we love sharing their foods.

However, there are a few things that concern us. To some degree funding dictates what we teach - today is it workplace English, survival skills, or EL/Civics? We are not always able to meet the needs of all the individual students as we are busy "engaging" the group. Sometimes we don't know the exact grammar rules ourselves and we feel inadequate saying, 'uh, that's just the way it is'.

We know we are doing a good job, but we want to do better, to give more, and to be all things to our students."

Take just a moment to think about how you would respond. If you'd like to share your thoughts, we'd love to hear from you and to include your ideas in the next newsletter – email editor@3rtesol.org

- Jennifer Haberman

Call for Articles!

We'd love to hear from YOU! If you have an article, teaching tips, lesson plan, or news pertaining to the TESOL field - let's hear it. Please submit your articles or ideas to editor@3rtesol.org

Scholarly Publications by our 2007 Plenary Speaker

by Janet L. Pierce

For those of you who were at the 2007 Three Rivers TESOL Conference, you will remember that our Plenary Speaker, Dr. Jerry Gebhard mentioned some of his books. If you would like to check out his books, you can look up these most recent articles and books.

His books and journal special issues editing include:

(In press). *International student voices: Adjusting to life at an American university*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

(2006). *Teaching English as a foreign and second language: A self-development and methodology guide*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. Second Edition.

(1999). *Language teaching awareness: A guide to exploring beliefs and practices*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (With Robert Oprandy) (Translated into Basque in 2001).

(1996). *Teaching English as a foreign and second language: A self-development and methodology guide*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

(1992). Guest Editor. Second Language Teacher Education. *The Language Teacher* 16(12). (with John F. Fanselow).

(1990). *Proceedings: symposium on intensive English training in China*. With C. Wang, J. Wu and M. Zhang (Eds.), Beijing: Education-Tourism Press.

His most recent refereed journal articles and book chapters include:

(In press). Developing teacher expertise through exploration of teaching. *English Language Teaching*.

(In press). The TESOL practicum. In A. Burns & J.C. Richards (eds.). *The Cambridge Guide to Second Language Teacher Education*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

(2005). A mutual learning experience: Collaborative journaling between a nonnative speaker intern and native-speaker cooperating-teacher. *Asian EFL Journal* 7(2). (with Toshinobu Nagamine)

(2005). Teacher development through exploration: Principles and activities. *TESOL-EJ* 10(4).

(2005). Awareness of teaching through action research: Examples, benefits, limitations. *JALT Journal* 27(1): 53-69.

(2003). Teacher development through exploration: Principles, processes, and problems in Hungary. In J. Andor, J. Horváth and M. Nikolov (eds.), *Studies in English Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*. Pécs: Lingua Franca Csoport (with M. Fodor and M. Lehmann).

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(1998). Second language teacher development and Korea. *The Korea TESOL Journal* 1(1): 1-10.

(1993). The ESL media and materials fair. In D. Freeman and S. Cornwell (Eds.), *New ways in teacher education*. Arlington, VA.: TESOL.

(1992). The power of observation: "Make a wish, make a dream, imagine all the possibilities". In D. Nunan (Ed.), *Collaborative Language Learning and Teaching*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (with Akiko Ueda)

(1992). Awareness of teaching: Approaches, benefits, tasks. *English Teaching Forum* 30(4): 2-7. Reprint. (1995). *Forum Anthology: 1988-1994*. Washington D.C.: United States Information Agency.

(1992). EFL teacher education curriculum development as inquiry: The Orosz Szakos Tanarok Atkepzesi program. In J. Flowerdew, M. Brock, and S. Hsia (Eds.), *Perspectives on Second Language Teacher Education*. Kowloon: City Polytechnic of Hong Kong.

(1991). Clinical supervision: Process concerns. *TESOL Quarterly* 25(1): 38-43.

(1991). Creative behavior in teacher supervision. *Prospect* 6(3): 40-49. (With A. Malicka). (Special issue on Teacher Education; David Nunan, editor).

(1990). Models of supervision: More choices. In J. Richards and D. Nunan (Eds.), *Second language teacher education*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

(1990). Freeing the teacher: A supervisory process. *Foreign Language Annals* 23(6): 517-25.

His most recent articles in non-refereed journals include:

(2007). Twenty-two years later: Reflections on the value of the doctoral dissertation. *C&T Working Papers in Composition & TESOL*, 3.

(2002). Action research: An historical perspective. *Thai TESOL Focus* 15(2).

(2002). Teaching students to communicate across cultures: Concepts and practical ideas for the classroom. *Thai TESOL Focus* 15(3): 3-8.

(2002). The cyclic process of action research. *Thai TESOL Focus* 15(3): 20-23.

(1992). Second language teacher education and Japan: State of the art and implications for Japan. *The Language Teacher* 16(12):29-32.

(1992). How hatha yoga was taught. *The Language Teacher* 16(12): 29-32.

(1991). Seeing teaching differently: The teacher as observer. *The Language Teacher* 15 (5): 7-9.

Mark your calendar!

JANUARY	APRIL	MAY
<p data-bbox="191 348 472 380"><u>Winter Meet & Greet</u></p> <p data-bbox="175 485 488 548">Tuesday, January 22, 2008 5:00 – 7:00 pm</p> <p data-bbox="144 585 521 716">La CASA-Tapas and Wine Bar 5884 Ellsworth Ave, Shadyside (412) 441-3090 http://www.casablanca212.com/</p> <p data-bbox="147 753 513 789"><i>Bring a TESOL friend!</i></p> <p data-bbox="180 827 483 894">Please RSVP to president@3rtesol.org</p>	<p data-bbox="602 348 1049 380"><u>International TESOL Conference</u></p> <p data-bbox="735 485 915 516">April 2-5, 2008</p> <p data-bbox="581 554 1073 617"><i>Worlds of TESOL: Building Communities of Practice, Inquiry, and Creativity</i></p> <p data-bbox="586 655 1065 718">New York Hilton & Sheraton New York New York, NY</p> <p data-bbox="591 753 1060 816">Online Registration: https://www.one-stop-registration.com/tesol08/OSR.index</p> 	<p data-bbox="1138 348 1471 417"><u>Spring Professional Development Symposium</u></p> <p data-bbox="1170 485 1438 548">Saturday, May 3, 2008 9:00am – 12:00pm</p> <p data-bbox="1151 590 1459 621">Location to be determined</p>

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